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Report of Interrogation : No. 5854 of

9 November 1945  
I/O : Capt. HALL

P/W : HILGER, Gustav  
Rank : Counsellor of Embassy  
Unit : Foreign Office  
Capt'd : 19 May 1945, Salzburg.

Veracity : Believed reliable.

Report : Answers to Periodic Intelligence Questionnaire; MIS Sep-Oct 1945.

Question USSR # 2 : Has Stalin's participation in the foreign affairs lessened  
any by devolution to associates ?

Answer # 7 : In his report of 30 Oct 45 about the Politburo, P/W set forth  
how Stalin through his position as General Secretary of the Politburo became  
the absolute dictator of the Soviet Union and how his will was the determining  
factor in all fields of Russian policy.

This is particularly true of questions of foreign policy. Stalin had  
always manifested a vivid interest in them and managed them from behind the  
stage, without himself appearing before the public. He broke that habit for  
the first time on 23 August 1939 when he directed personally the negotia-  
tions with Ribbentrop for the non-aggression pact between Russia and Germany  
and when he witnessed the signing of that treaty by Ribbentrop and Molotov.  
From then on, his participation in important negotiations with the represent-  
atives of foreign countries became a general rule. In the fall of 1939 he  
participated in the negotiations with Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia concerning  
the conclusion of pacts of non-aggression and mutual assistance. He negotiated  
with Ribbentrop the Border and Friendship Treaty between Germany and Russia of  
28 September 1939, and later on he took part in the discussions about the  
details of the trade agreement between Germany and Russia. In early April 1941  
Stalin initiated the negotiations with Yugoslavia for the conclusion of a  
treaty of friendship. A week later he personally conducted the discussions with  
the Japanese foreign minister Matsuoka for the conclusion of the Treaty of  
Non-Aggression and neutrality of 13 April 1941.

During these negotiations, Stalin had no official position in the Soviet  
government. Only on 3 May 1941 did he replace Molotov as Chairman of the  
Council of the People's Commissars of the USSR. (Molotov kept the position  
of head of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs). By doing so, Stalin  
made himself the actual head of the government. As such he met the representat-  
ives of the USA and Great Britain in the conferences at Moscow, Teheran and  
Potsdam.

Up to now there has been no indication that Stalin intends to take a  
lesser part in foreign affairs and leave them to Molotov. The course of the  
negotiations during the last conference of the foreign ministers and the role  
which Molotov played there prove exactly the contrary. The fact that Molotov  
was forced to retract a statement he had made 11 days before is clear evidence  
of Stalin's dictatorial interference.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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The supposition which recently appeared that Stalin intends to retire from the direction of foreign affairs for reasons of health and leave these activities to his associates have not been confirmed. The reception of the Ambassador of the USA Mr. Harriman by Stalin in Sochi shows that Stalin still wishes to hold the threads of foreign policy in his own hands.

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